

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 057951

12

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:LCKILDAY:RCS
APPROVED BY ARA: WILLIAM D. ROGERS
EUR/NE:JSHUMATE
ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN
ARA:WLUERS
ARA/HARYAN
S/S:O:PSHANKLE
S:DPASSAGE

----- 065149

R 100232Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057951

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GT UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE

1. SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN TRIP WAS DISCUSSED AT MARCH 5 LUNCHEON MEETING BETWEEN DCM MORETON AND POLOFF SAMUELS OF UK EMBASSY AND ARA OFFICERS INCLUDING ASST. SEC'Y. ROGERS AND DEP. ASST. SEC'Y. LUERS. EMBOFFS INQUIRED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER FALKLAND ISLANDS QUESTION HAD ARisen IN ANY OF SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS AND WHETHER SECRETARY HAD DISCUSSED BELIZE PROBLEM WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA AND/OR PRESIDENT LAUGERUD.

2. ASST. SEC'Y. ROGERS TOLD MORETON AND SAMUELS THAT FALKLAND ISLANDS QUESTION DID NOT ARISE DURING TRIP. ROGERS BRIEFED UK EMBOFFS ON BELIZE PORTION OF SECRETARY'S DIS-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 057951

CUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND FOREIGN MINISTER

MOLINA, DRAWING THEIR ATTENTION TO MOLINA'S VIEWS THAT:
(A) POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO GEORGE PRICE DID NOT SHARE
PRICE'S ENTHUSIASM FOR EARLY INDEPENDENCE, AND (B) THAT A
RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE WOULD HAVE TO INVOLVE SOME TER-
RITORIAL CONCESSION TO GUATEMALA. ROGERS ADDED THAT,
BASED ON STRENGTH OF MOLINA'S STATEMENT, HE THOUGHT IT

LIKELY THAT TALKS WOULD BREAK DOWN AT MOMENT UK MADE
ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT NO TERRITORY COULD BE ADDED TO
GUATEMALA.

3. WITH REGARD TO (A) ABOVE, MORETON STATED THAT IT HAD
BEEN AGREED THAT DEAN LINDO OF OPPOSITION UDP
WOULD BE PART OF UK-GOB NEGOTIATING TEAM FOR FEBRUARY
TALKS. WITH REGARD TO POINT (B) SAMUELS WONDERED WHETHER
GOG MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SWAPPING SOME OF ITS TERRITORY
ALONG BELIZE BORDER IN PETEN FOR PRESUMABLY EQUAL AMOUNT
OF TERRITORY ALONG PRESENT SOUTHERN BELIZE-GUATEMALA
BORDER. SAMUELS STRESSED THAT THIS WAS HIS OWN IDEA AT
THIS POINT AND HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITHIN HMG. DEPTOFFS
ASKED WHY UK HAD ABANDONED NOTION OF TERRITORIAL CONCES-
SIONS WHICH WERE PROMINENT FEATURE OF UK NEGOTIATING
POSITION IN 1975 TALKS. SAMUELS REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT
SIR IVOR RICHARD HAD EXCEEDED HIS INSTRUCTIONS BY DIS-
CUSSING TERRITORY.

4. EMBOFFS ASKED WHETHER LAUGERUD'S GOVERNMENT REMAINED
STABLE FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE, AND WHETHER CHALLENGE OF
RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO CHANGE
GUATEMALAN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF BELIZE DISPUTE. DEPT.
OFFS. DOUBTED THAT DIFFICULTIES OF POST-EARTHQUAKE PERIOD
WOULD EASE INTENSITY OF GUATEMALA'S PUBLIC OR OFFICIAL
ATTITUDES ON BELIZE QUESTION. DEPTOFFS ALSO SAID THERE
WERE NO INDICATIONS NOW THAT LAUGERUD GOVERNMENT WAS ANY
LESS STABLE FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE THAN IT HAD BEEN BEFORE.
DEPTOFFS ALSO SPECULATED ON POSSIBILITY THAT A CONTINUING
ENERGETIC AND EFFICIENT GOG RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES OF
THE EARTHQUAKE COULD LEAD TO EVEN GREATER PUBLIC SUPPORT
OF THE GOG WHICH, UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS, MIGHT EN-
HANCE THE GOG'S ABILITY TO CONCLUDE A SETTLEMENT OF BELIZE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 057951

PROBLEM.

5. MORETON EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR CONTINUING
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND IMPRESSIONS ON BELIZE PROBLEM.
HE WAS PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT US POSITION
SEEMED TO HAVE SHIFTED OVER PAST YEAR OR SO. WHEREAS PRE-
VIOUSLY, HMG HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US WOULD NOT IN-
VOLVE ITSELF IN ANY WAY IN SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM, IT

NOW APPEARED THAT US WAS PREPARED TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IF ALL PARTIES AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL. ASST. SEC'Y ROGERS REPLIED THAT GOG ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS HAD SOUGHT TO ENLIST THE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF THE SECRETARY IN SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE, AND THAT SECRETARY HAD TOLD LAUGERUD AND MOLINA THAT USG WOULD NOT MEDIATE DISPUTE. ROGERS ADDED THAT HE MIGHT BE WILLING TO RECOMMEND THAT THE USG PLAY A ROLE IN THE SUBSTANCE OR PROCEDURE OF A SETTLEMENT UNDER THE PROPER CONDITIONS, INCLUDING (A) THE PARTIES WERE CLEARLY WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF A SETTLEMENT; (B) US INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE BRIEF AND DECISIVE; (C) USG INVOLVEMENT WOULD NOT LEAVE FUTURE US GENERATION WITH A LEGACY OF BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT AMONG ANY OF THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE.

6. EMBOFFS REPORTED THAT TALKS WOULD NOW BE RESUMED SOME TIME IN APRIL. GOG HAD ONLY RECENTLY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MEET IN EARLY APRIL IF BELIZEANS WERE EXCLUDED FROM TALKS, OR LATE APRIL IF BELIZEANS WERE INCLUDED. UK CONSUL MCQUILLAN, ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, HAD TOLD GOG THAT HMG WOULD PREFER EARLY APRIL DATE WITH BELIZEANS PRESENT. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE057951
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LCKILDAY:RCS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760090-0301
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760375/aaaacnvp.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GT, UK, US, BH, FA
To: GUATEMALA LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006